



AGENDA
February 18, 2020
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
1:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- * 1:00 p.m. - Mr. Gary Powell, Emergency Services and Mr. Tim Ailsworth, LGIT
 - Training Grant/National Hurricane Conference
- * 1:10 p.m. - Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance
 - FY21 Tipping Fees/Transfer Station Permit Fees
- * 1:20 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
 - MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Match Program
- * 1:30 p.m. - Mr. John Redden, County Engineer
 - Revised Airport MOU- UMES/Somerset County/Crisfield

Correspondence:

Received

Maryland Department of Commerce re: Private Activity Bonds 2020 Initial Allocation for MD

Sent

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Ways and Means Committee re: Support HB761
The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Finance Committee re: Support SB540
The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Economic Matters Committee re: Support HB999
Maryland Department of Natural Resources re: Letter of Support/Somerset Landing Drainage Study
Audubon Maryland-DC re: Letter of Support/Conservation of Salt Marshes
Smith Island United re: Approval for Waiver of Fees/Marsh Overlook Project

Discussion:

- * 1. FY19-20 AMOSS Grant Agreements/Fire Rescue and Ambulance Fund

Public Comments (5-minute time limit to speak)

- * **1:45 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor
Authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland § 3-305 (b)(1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and (8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
February 18, 2020

At 1:00 p.m., President Craig Mathies, Sr., called the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to open in Regular Session. Also present for the meeting were Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Aide Lory E. Ebron were also present.

President Mathies asked Commissioner Willing to lead those present in Devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report February 18, 2020

On February 18, 2020, at 1:36 p.m. until 1:48 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to enter into Closed Session by Authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305 (b)(1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and (b) (8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Craig Mathies Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, and Executive Aide Lory Ebron. Topics discussed: (1) Employee Probationary to Permanent Status (2) Update regarding litigation. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to move employee from probationary to permanent employee status.

Minutes from the Commissioner Meeting and Closed Session meeting held on February 4, 2020, were unanimously approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Eldon Willing and seconded by Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Minutes from the Work, Special and Closed Session meetings held on February 11, 2020 were unanimously approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing.

Minutes from the Work, Special and Closed Session meetings held on January 28, 2020 were unanimously approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird.

Mr. Gary Powell, Emergency Services and Mr. Tim Ailsworth, Executive Director Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) came forward at this time to present a Training Grant awarded that will allow one Somerset County employee to attend the 2020 National Hurricane Conference. Ms. Sharon Muir, Internal Auditor and Ms. Michelle Keplinger were also present in the audience. Mr. Ailsworth explained the function of LGIT to provide property and liability insurance coverage for Somerset County, an original member of LGIT since its creation. He said there were 23 original members, with memberships growing to 190 today, and \$70 million in assets. He explained the discount Somerset County receives (18%) as an original member. He continued, explaining this grant is awarded by the Risk Management Committee, who chose to award this sole grant, in the amount of \$1995, to Somerset County. Mr. Ailsworth then proceeded to present the check to Mr. Powell. The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Ailworth and Ms. Keplinger, thanking them for attending the meeting and presenting the Training Grant to Mr. Powell.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, came forward at this time to discuss Transfer Station and Tipping Fees. He began with a review of current Transfer Station fee in place (\$60), and projected revenue should the fee be increased. It was noted that the last increase to \$60 was enacted in 2018. Mr. Cavanaugh also discussed the current fee for Smith Island residents of \$60 per developed parcel. This increase last year brought Smith Island in line with the rest of the county. He reminded the Board, that typically, should an increase be implemented, the Town and City would increase the following year to allow adjustments for the upcoming budget.

Mr. Cavanaugh continued, discussing the current fee of \$360 per ton for the disposal of tractor and heavy equipment tires. He made the recommendation to reduce the fee for these tires to \$100 per ton.

Commissioner Randy Laird questioned the Debt Service listed for Cell 1-4 at the County Landfill, and the length of time remaining on these debts. Mr. Cavanaugh explained that the debts

are 40-year USDA loans, with the earliest being Cell 1 in 1994. The Board then requested to review the information provided by Mr. Cavanaugh regarding Transfer Station and Tipping Fee's and provide a decision at the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Randy Laird then made a motion to decrease the fee for the disposal of tractor and heavy equipment tires from \$360 per ton to \$100 per ton. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gary Pusey and Mr. Adam Gibson, Department of Technical and Community Services came forward to present the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Matching Program. Mr. Pusey explained that the county participates in the State's Agricultural Land Preservation Program, funded through dedicated revenues from the State's Agricultural Transfer Tax. One-third of this tax collected is kept locally for agricultural preservation purposes. When funds are not used for three-years, it must be returned to the state, unless it is committed to a "Local Matching Program" that allows local funds to be used with state funds to purchase easements in the county. Somerset County has \$26,392.67 of funds that are almost three-years old, and the State is asking if the County would like to commit these funds to the Local Matching Program. Mr. Pusey recommended the County commit all of the "less than three-year old money" totaling \$26,392.67 to the Local Matching Program for the FY21 easement offer cycle.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to commit \$26,392.67 to the Local Matching Program for the FY21 easement offer cycle. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. John Redden, County Engineer, came forward at this time to advise the Board of a minor change that was made to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Somerset County and the City of Crisfield regarding the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport. The original MOU was previously approved by the Board of Commissioners on December 17, 2019; however, UMES has requested a minor change regarding responsibility of paint, painting supplies and aviation student and faculty volunteers to paint the interior of the W41 terminal building not be their responsibility. Mr. Redden explained that the City is willing to take on that responsibility, in addition to meeting ADA compliancy. The revised MOU reflects this minor change.

Upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, it carried unanimously to accept and approve the revised MOU as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from the Maryland Department of Commerce advising of the 2020 Private Activity Bond Initial Allocation of the Maryland State Ceiling. It was noted that historically, the county has not requested a transfer of unused housing allocation.

Mr. Taylor next presented the annual "Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Fund" (AMOSS) grant agreements for the following fire and ambulance companies for the Boards approval:

- Ewell Volunteer Fire Department for fire and medical supplies and equipment
- Tylerton Fire and Rescue Co., Inc for fire protection and medical assistance
- Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Company/Ambulance for ambulance payments
- Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Company for engine payments
- Crisfield Volunteer Fire Department for loans for apparatus/emergency gear equipment for existing trucks
- Marion Fire Department for apparatus, capital equipment facilities
- Deal Island-Chance Volunteer Fire Company for truck 408 payment and marine 401 refurbishing
- Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Company for acquisition or rehabilitation of apparatus, capital equipment or facilities
- Lower Somerset Ambulance and Rescue Squad Inc for equipment purchases
- Fairmount Volunteer Fire Company for turnout gear and payment on the tanker

Mr. Taylor then requested the Board's approval for the President's signature on the AMOSS grant agreements as presented. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to authorize President Mathies to sign the AMOSS grant agreements. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Willing abstained; therefore, the motion carried 3-0-1.

Mr. Bob McIntyre requested to address the Board. He advised he had been to the Sanitary District meeting on Thursday and didn't understand the explanation provided to take fluoride out of the water. He asked if any of the commissioners could explain the process or if they knew anything about the company. The Board advised they did not and referred Mr. McIntyre to speak with the Sanitary District. Mr. McIntyre commented that if the county had a public works commission the commissioners would know.

At 1:34 p.m., Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to go into Closed Session, however, Mr. Caleb Shores asked to address the Board. Therefore, the motion did not carry.

President Mathies asked Mr. Shores (27510 Mt. Vernon Road) to come forward. Mr. Shores asked if the Commissioners were aware of the upcoming battle to create a single elementary school whereby taxpayers will front the \$11 million. He asked what the Commissioner's thoughts are to fund this project. He added that they are going to go to the School Board meeting tonight. President Mathies advised there has been no discussion on the subject and the Board of County Commissioners has not been contacted by the Board of Education.

With no further business, at 1:36 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, the Board entered into closed session by Authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305 (b)(1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and (b) (8) consult staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 1:48 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide